REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 28, 2006. Claims 1 to 4, 7 to 9, 26 and 27 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8 and 9 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP 8-30717 (Matsubayashi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,295,105 (Gray). Claims 3, 5, 6 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Matsubayashi in view of Gray, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,579,416 (Shibuya). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Matsubayashi in view of Gray, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,513,278 (Hashizume). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Matsubayashi in view of Gray, in further view of Shibuya, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,962,465 (Saito). Claims 10, 12 to 15, 22, 24, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)over Matsubayashi in view of Gray, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,946,001 (Isaka). Claims 11 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Matsubayashi in view of Gray, in further view of Hashizume, and in further view of Isaka. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus which includes a reading unit constructed to read an image in an original; a character recognizing unit constructed to recognize a character in the image read by the reading unit; a storing unit constructed to store a character font; and a readout unit constructed to read the character font from the storing unit in response to a result of recognition obtained by the character recognizing unit; a first detecting unit constructed to detect first character size concerning the character in the image read by reading unit. The apparatus further

includes a setting unit constructed to set a magnification information based on an instruction by an operator; a second determining unit constructed to determine second character size based on the first character size and the magnification information; and a generating unit constructed to generate a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the character font read by the readout unit. The generating means unit reproduces characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps in accordance with the magnification information and the second character size.

Amended independent Claims 8 and 9 are directed to a method and a recording medium readable by a computer, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied references, namely Matsubayashi and Gray, do not disclose or suggest, neither alone nor in combination, the features of independent Claims 1, 8 and 9. In particular, the applied references neither disclose nor suggest, neither alone nor in combination, at least the features of detecting the size (first character size) of the character in the image read by the reading means unit or step; determining the second character size based on the magnification information set in response to an operator's instruction; and reproducing the image including the characters of the second character size, based on the font read out according to the result of recognition of the character recognizing means or step.

Matsubayashi discloses a device which extracts feature information from input image data, compares the extracted information with a dictionary, and outputs character code information which is best-matched as a result of the comparison. However, Matsubayashi neither discloses nor suggests that a second character size is determined based on a first character size and magnification information, and that an image including the characters of the second

character size is reproduced. Applicant has reviewed Gray and nothing in Gray is seen to cure this deficiency in Matsubayashi.

In addition, Claims 1, 8 and 9 feature reproducing characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps according to the magnification information and the second character size.

With regard to such a characteristic, Gray discloses a character gap between scanned characters, but is entirely silent about reproducing characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps according to the magnification information and the second character size as featured in Claims 1, 8 and 9. Applicant has carefully reviewed Matsubayashi and nothing in Matsubayashi is seen to cure this deficiency in Gray.

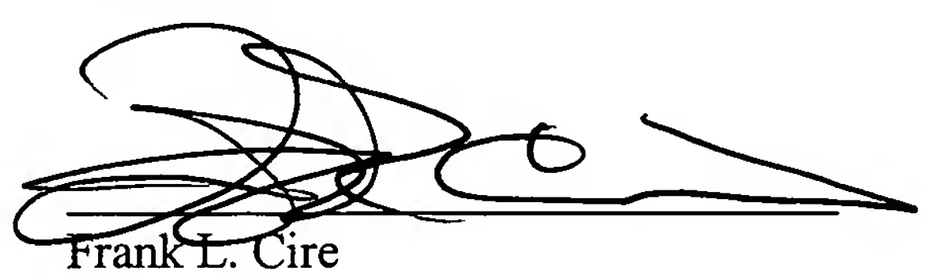
In light of the deficiencies of Matsubayashi and Gray, as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 9 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. However, as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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